ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE PROFILES

Immigrants in the Labour Force

2015

Alberta

Highlights

Please see the appendix for important definitions.

1. Immigrants

- Of the 7.1 million working age immigrants in Canada, 10.5% lived in Alberta in 2015.
- In 2015, immigrants accounted for 22.2% of the working age population in Alberta, the third highest percentage among the provinces.
- Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada was 17.4% in 2015, the third highest among the provinces.

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

- In 2015, Alberta had the second highest labour force participation and employment rates for immigrants among the provinces in Canada.
- The participation rates for male and female immigrants in Alberta, 77.7% and 63.3% respectively, were lower than their provincial counterparts' participation rates.
- Immigrants accounted for 25.0% of unemployed Albertans in 2015.
- Very recent immigrants had a higher unemployment rate than both more established and recent immigrants in 2015.
- The unemployment rate of established immigrants, 5.1%, was lower than the provincial rate of 6.0%.

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector employed 78.1% of all working immigrants compared to the provincial average of 72.1% in 2015.
- Over one quarter of all Alberta immigrants were employed in Health Care and Social Assistance; and Trade (retail and wholesale) industries.

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

- The proportion of immigrants who were employed in the following occupations was higher than the provincial average: Natural and applied sciences; Health; Sales and service; and Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities.
- Employed immigrants who arrived very recently, 33.6% worked in the Sales and services occupations compared to the provincial average of 24.5%.

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

- A slightly higher percentage of established immigrants, 85.1%, worked full-time compared to provincial average of 84.1%.
- A lower percentage of employed Alberta immigrants aged 15-24 worked full-time compared to the provincial average.

6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

- On average, Alberta immigrants earned $2.77 less than the provincial average.
- Alberta immigrants earned higher average hourly wages than the province in the following two industries: Utilities and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Among Alberta immigrants, established immigrants earned the highest average hourly wage of $28.82, followed by recent immigrants, $25.04, and $21.09 for very recent immigrants.

1. Immigrants[1] in Alberta

Alberta's share of working age immigrants in Canada at 10.5% was the fourth highest after Ontario's 52.7%, British Columbia's 17.0% and Quebec's 14.3% (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Immigrant Working Age Population by Province, 2015

	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	Share
Canada	7,062,200	100.0%
Newfoundland and Labrador	7,600	0.1%
Prince Edward Island	6,200	0.1%
Nova Scotia	49,500	0.7%
New Brunswick	27,900	0.4%
Quebec	1,011,000	14.3%
Ontario	3,719,300	52.7%
Manitoba	205,900	2.9%
Saskatchewan	90,500	1.3%
Alberta	**742,900**	**10.5%**
British Columbia	1,201,500	17.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta had the third highest percentage of immigrants in its working age population at 22.2%, behind Ontario at 32.7%, and British Columbia at 31.0% (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Percentage of Immigrants in Working Age Population, Canada and Provinces, 2015

	Total Population (15+ years)	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	Proportion of Immigrants (15+ years)
Canada	29,279,800	7,062,200	24.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	442,900	7,600	1.7%
Prince Edward Island	120,900	6,200	5.1%
Nova Scotia	785,500	49,500	6.3%
New Brunswick	622,000	27,900	4.5%
Quebec	6,843,300	1,011,000	14.8%
Ontario	11,385,600	3,719,300	32.7%
Manitoba	987,200	205,900	20.9%
Saskatchewan	861,500	90,500	10.5%
Alberta	**3,353,800**	**742,900**	**22.2%**
British Columbia	3,877,100	1,201,500	31.0%

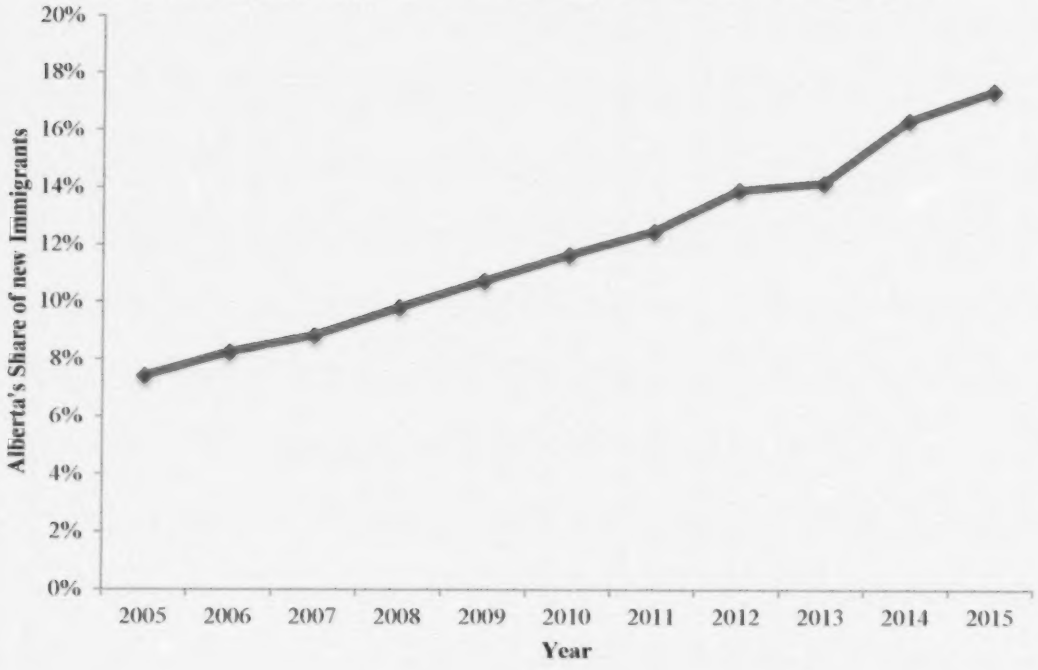
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

[1] *Temporary foreign workers, refugee claimants and other non-permanent residents are not immigrants and are excluded from this analysis.*

Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada grew continuously from 2005 to 2015 (Figure 3). For 2015, Alberta's share of Canada's new immigrants was 17.4% and Alberta's share of Canada's total working age population was 11.5% in 2015.

Figure 3

Proportion of New Immigrants arriving in Canada and Alberta



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

The 742,900 immigrants in Alberta made up 22.2% of the Alberta working age population in 2015, while the immigrant labour force of 522,700 was 21.3% of the labour force in Alberta (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Labour Force Statistics for Immigrants in Alberta, 2015

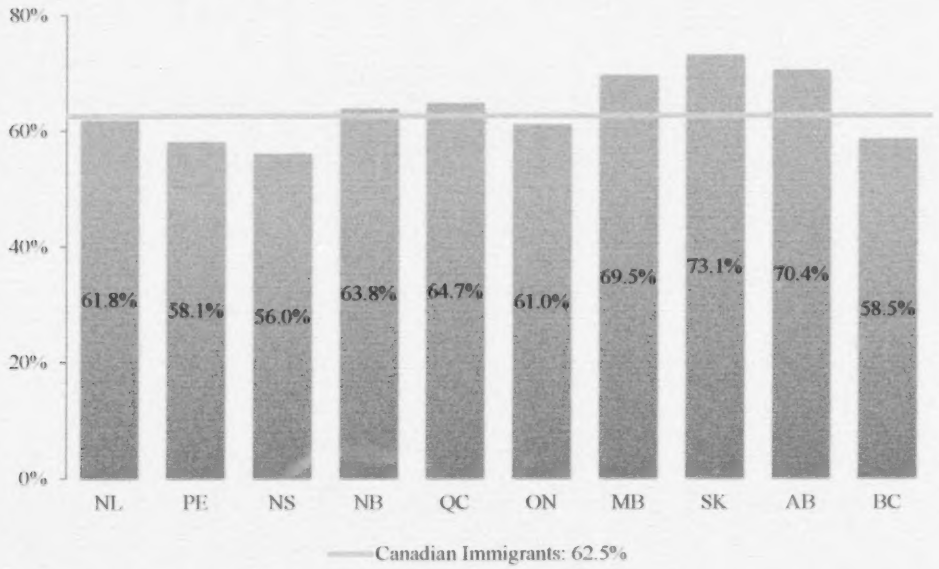
	Alberta (15+ years)	Alberta Immigrants (15+ years)
Working Age Population	3,353,800	742,900
Labour Force	2,449,200	522,700
Employment	2,301,100	485,800
Unemployment	148,000	37,000
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	7.1%
Participation Rate	73.0%	70.4%
Employment Rate	68.6%	65.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, immigrants in Alberta had the second highest participation rate among all provinces, at 70.4%, behind Saskatchewan's 73.1%. The Canadian rate for immigrants was 62.5% (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Participation Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2015

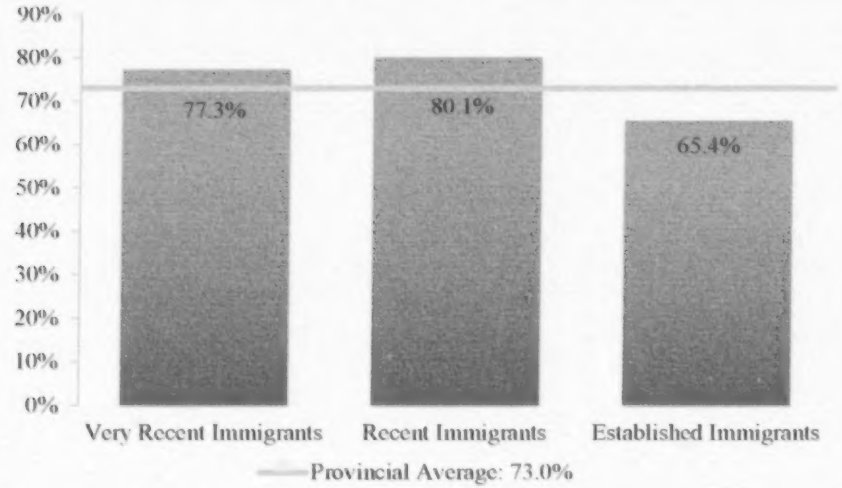


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

At 80.1%, Alberta recent immigrants had the highest participation rate among the three immigrant categories in 2015 (Figure 6). This rate was 14.7 percentage points higher than the participation rate of established immigrants and 7.1 percentage points higher than the provincial average.

Figure 6

Participation Rates for Alberta Immigrants, 2015

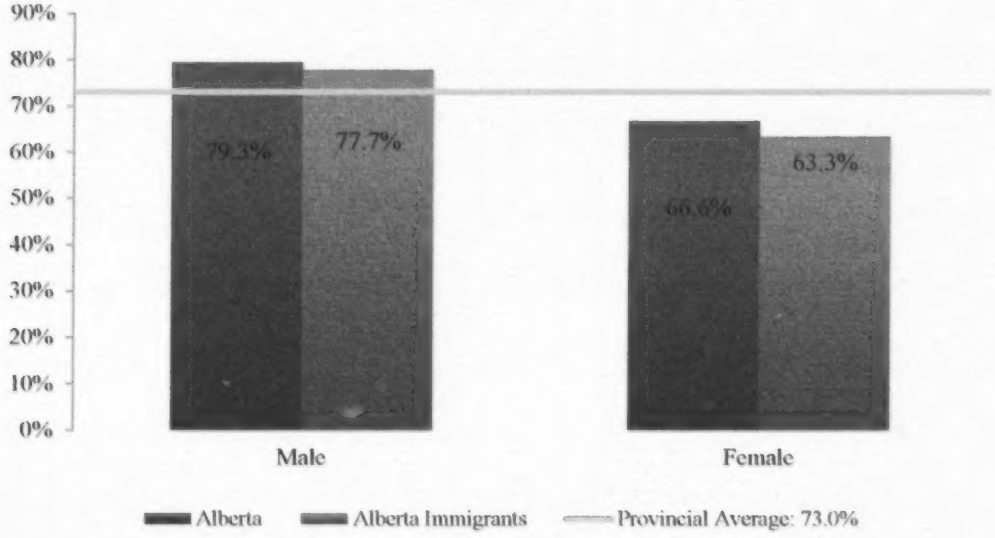


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

The provincial participation rates for males and females in Alberta were higher than the corresponding rates for male and female immigrant Albertans (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Participation Rates, 2015

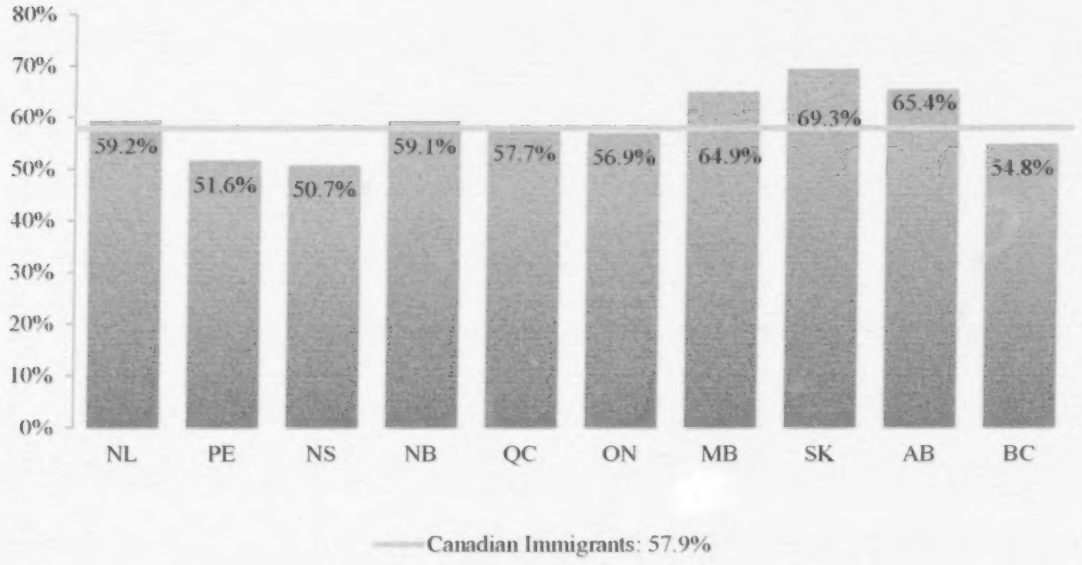


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Immigrants in Alberta had the second highest employment rate, at 65.4% behind Saskatchewan's 69.3% (Figure 8). The employment rate for immigrants in Alberta in 2015, was 7.5 percentage points above the Canadian immigrant rate of 57.9%.

Figure 8

Employment Rates for Immigrants by Province, 2015

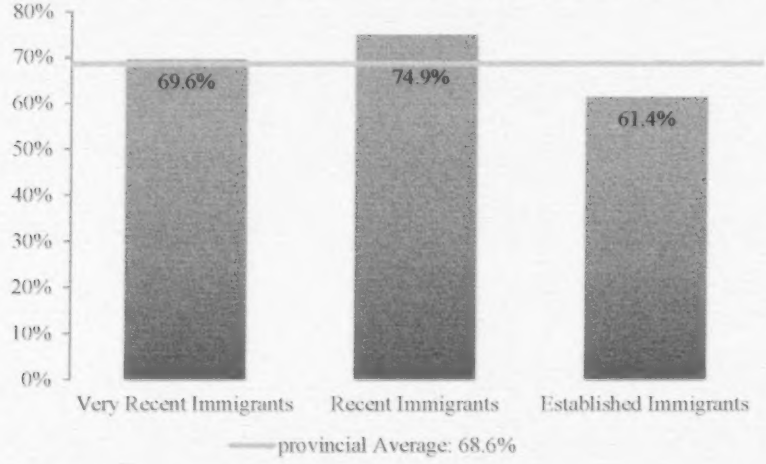


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, recent immigrants in Alberta had the highest employment rate, at 74.9% (Figure 9). This rate was 13.5 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants. The provincial employment rate was 68.6%.

Figure 9

Employment Rates for Alberta Immigrants, 2015

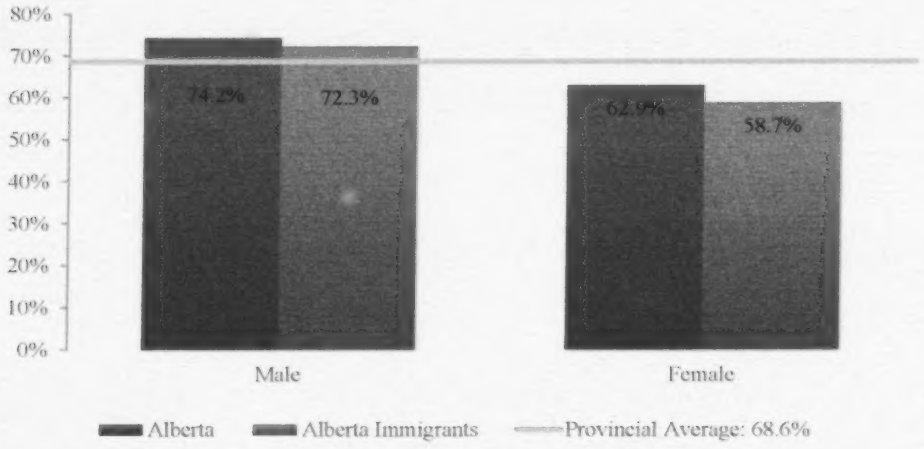


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, the employment rate for Alberta immigrant males was 1.9 percentage points lower than the provincial rate for males. The rate for immigrant females was 4.2 percentage points lower than the provincial rate for females (Figure 10).

Figure 10

Employment Rates, 2015

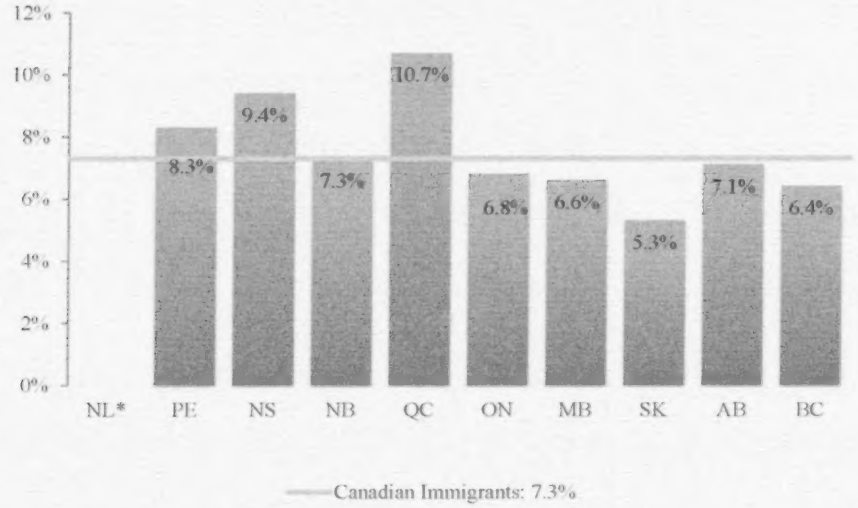


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Immigrants accounted for 25.0% of Alberta's unemployed people in 2015. Their unemployment rate of 7.1% was 1.1 percentage points higher than the provincial unemployment rate of 6.0% but below Canada's unemployment rate of 7.3% for immigrants (Figure 11).

Figure 11

Unemployment Rates for Immigrants by Provinces, 2015

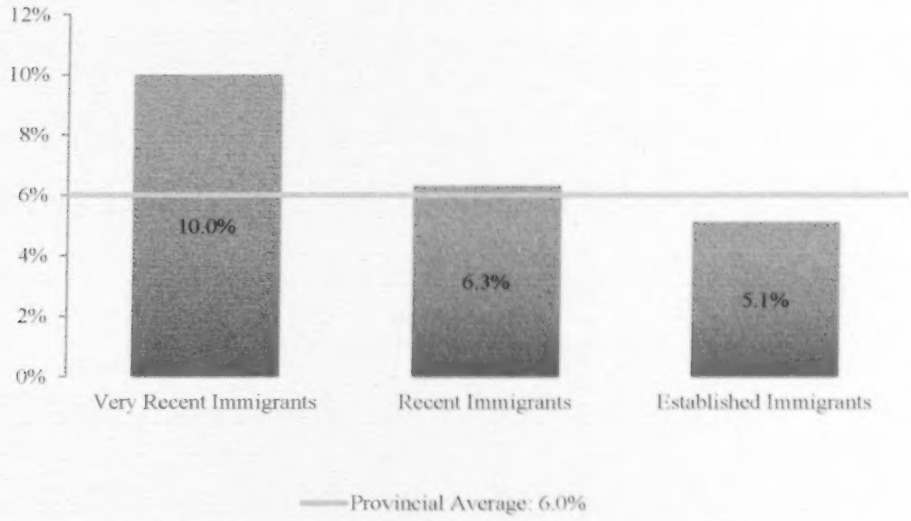


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: The rate for Newfoundland and Labrador was suppressed due to data limitations.

The unemployment rates for immigrants in 2015 varied by the length of residence in the country since arrival. The unemployment rate for very recent immigrants was 4.9 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants (Figure 12).

Figure 12

Unemployment Rates for Alberta Immigrants, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

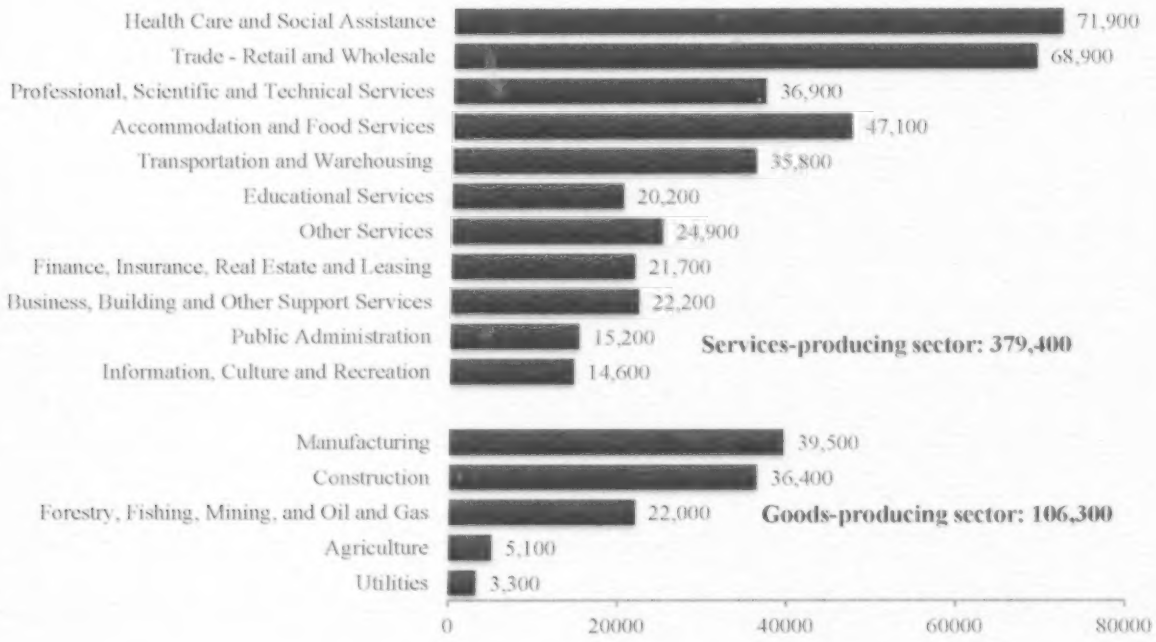
In 2015, 379,400 or 78.1% of employed Alberta immigrants worked in the Services-Producing Sector (Figure 13). The provincial average for this sector was 72.1%

The top five industries in which immigrants were employed in 2015 were: Health Care and Social Assistance, 71,900; Trade - Retail and Wholesale, 68,900; Accommodation and Food Services, 47,100; Manufacturing, 39,500; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 36,900. Together, these five industries accounted for 54.4% of all employed immigrants in the province.

The proportion of immigrants employed in the Goods-Producing sector was 21.9%, which was 6.0 percentage points lower than the proportion for the entire province (Figure 14).

Figure 13

Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

For very recent immigrants, 47.8% worked in three industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Trade; and Accommodation and Food Services. For recent immigrants, 45.0% worked in four industries: Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, and Manufacturing. Established immigrants, 43.7% were employed in four industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Trade; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Manufacturing.

For Alberta, 43.5% were employed in the following four industries: Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; Construction; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

Figure 14

Percentage Distribution of Employed Albertans and Alberta Immigrants by Industry, 2015

Industry	Alberta	Total Landed Immigrants	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Goods-Producing Sector	**27.9%**	**21.9%**	**23.0%**	**21.6%**	**21.4%**
Agriculture	2.7%	1.0%	*	1.2%	1.2%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	6.9%	4.5%	4.1%	4.6%	4.7%
Utilities	0.9%	0.7%	*	0.8%	0.8%
Construction	11.3%	7.5%	6.3%	7.8%	7.5%
Manufacturing	6.1%	8.1%	11.7%	7.2%	7.2%
Services-Producing Sector	**72.1%**	**78.1%**	**77.1%**	**78.4%**	**78.6%**
Trade	13.9%	14.2%	18.6%	13.0%	13.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	6.1%	7.4%	5.3%	7.9%	7.9%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	4.5%	4.5%	3.3%	4.8%	4.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	7.5%	7.6%	3.3%	8.7%	9.2%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	3.6%	4.6%	5.3%	4.4%	3.8%
Educational Services	6.0%	4.2%	2.9%	4.5%	4.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.5%	14.8%	13.5%	15.1%	14.3%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3.3%	3.0%	2.3%	3.2%	3.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	6.7%	9.7%	15.7%	8.1%	8.1%
Other Services	5.1%	5.1%	5.4%	5.0%	5.3%
Public Administration	4.1%	3.1%	1.6%	3.6%	4.1%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding
** Insufficient data*

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

In 2015, a higher proportion of Alberta immigrants were employed in four occupations compared to the provincial average. These occupations were Natural and applied sciences and related, Sales and services, Health, and Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities. Together, these four occupations accounted for 50.8% of employed Alberta immigrants compared to the provincial share of 44.5%.

Figure 15

Percent Distribution of Employed Albertans by Occupation, 2015

Occupation	Alberta	Immigrants
Management	9.1%	8.8%
Business, finance and administrative	16.1%	15.4%
Natural and applied sciences and related	7.8%	10.9%
Health	7.1%	8.4%
Social science, education, government service and religion	11.3%	9.1%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	3.0%	2.2%
Sales and service	24.5%	24.8%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	14.6%	12.9%
Unique to primary industry	2.0%	0.9%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	4.6%	6.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, the occupation that employed the highest proportions of very recent, recent and established immigrants was Sales and service (Figure 16).

Figure 16

Percentage Distribution of Employed Immigrants by Category and Occupation, 2015

Occupation	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Management	6.0%	6.8%	9.8%
Business, finance and administrative	12.0%	14.1%	16.3%
Natural and applied sciences and related	11.0%	11.2%	10.7%
Health	7.5%	9.0%	8.4%
Social science, education, government service and religion	8.5%	8.8%	9.3%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	1.9%	2.0%	2.2%
Sales and service	33.6%	27.6%	22.5%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	11.6%	12.5%	13.2%
Unique to primary industry	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	6.9%	6.9%	6.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
** Insufficient data*
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

Alberta immigrants had a higher proportion of part-time employment compared to the provincial average. Established Alberta immigrants had the highest percentage of full-time employment, 85.1%; while very recent and recent immigrants had the highest percentage of part-time employment, 17.5%.

Figure 17

Proportion of Full- and Part-Time Employment in Alberta, 2015

	Employment	Proportion Full-time Employment	Proportion Part-time Employment
Alberta	1,926,200	84.2%	15.8%
Immigrants	407,500	83.9%	16.1%
Very Recent Immigrants	94,800	82.5%	17.5%
Recent Immigrants	85,000	82.4%	17.5%
Established Immigrants	227,700	85.1%	14.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

In 2015, Alberta immigrants had a lower proportion of 15 to 24 year olds employed full time compared to the provincial average; however a higher proportion of Alberta immigrants 55 years and over were employed fulltime.

Figure 18

Full-time and Part-time Employment in Alberta by Age Group, 2015

	Alberta		Alberta Immigrants	
	Employed	Percent	Employed	Percent
All 15+ years	2,301,100	100.0%	485,800	100.0%
Full-time	1,910,800	83.0%	405,300	83.4%
Part-time	390,300	17.0%	80,500	16.6%
15-24 years	320,300	13.9%	38,200	7.9%
Full-time	197,900	8.6%	19,400	4.0%
Part-time	122,400	5.3%	18,800	3.9%
25-54 years	1,551,700	67.4%	352,200	72.5%
Full-time	1,372,200	59.6%	309,300	63.7%
Part-time	179,400	7.8%	42,900	8.8%
55+ years	429,100	18.6%	95,300	19.6%
Full-time	340,600	14.8%	76,600	15.8%
Part-time	88,500	3.8%	18,700	3.8%

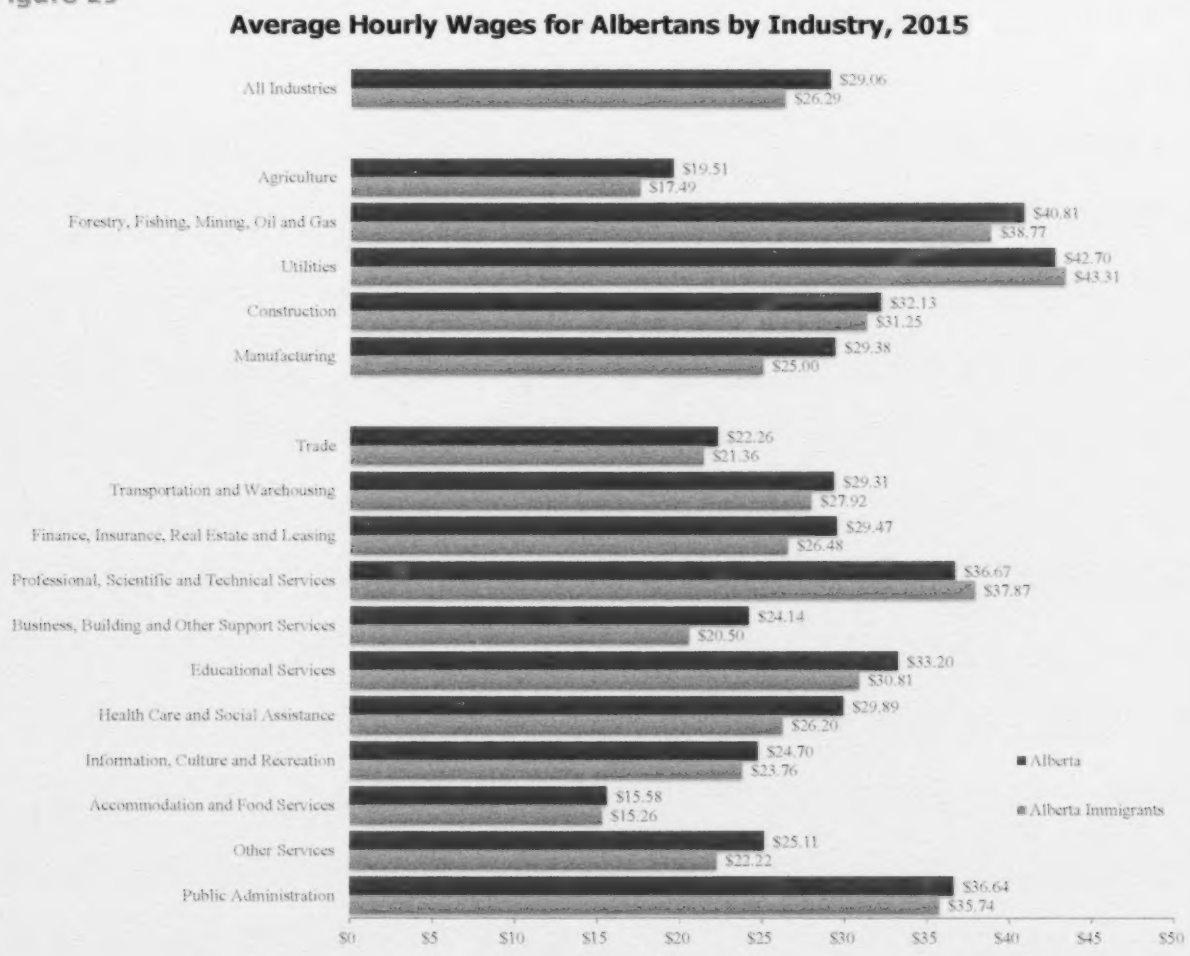
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

Alberta immigrants employed in two industries earned higher average hourly wages than the provincial average: Utilities and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

Overall, Alberta immigrants' hourly wages were $2.77 less than the Alberta average.

Figure 19

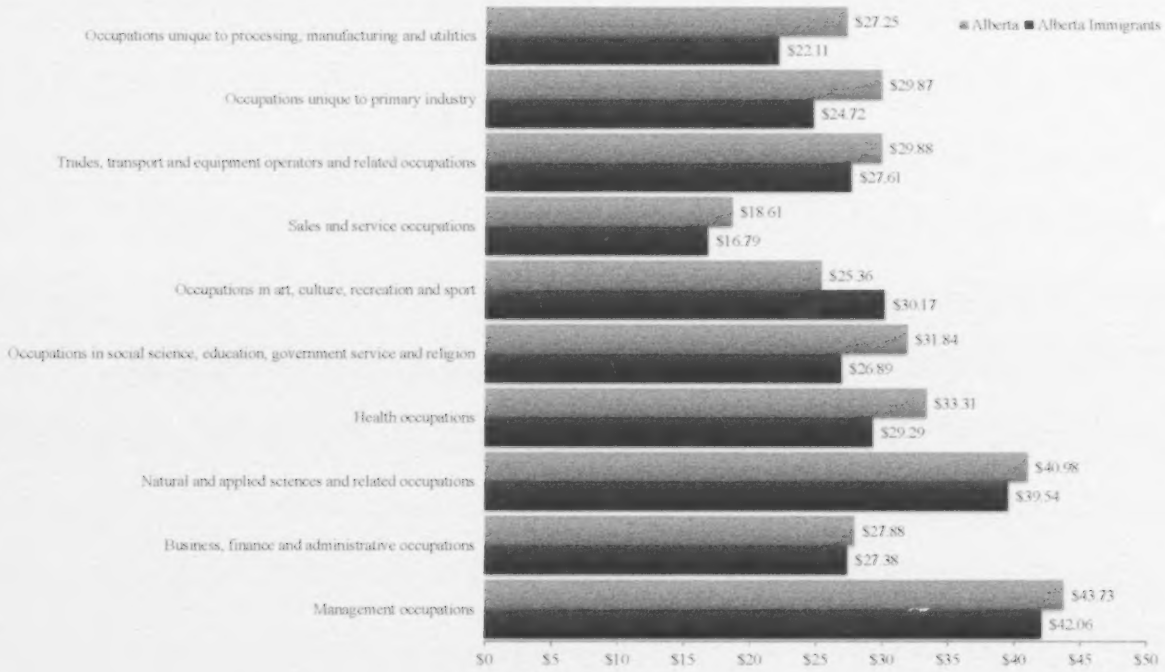


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The provincial average hourly wage by occupation was higher than the average for Alberta immigrants in all but Art, culture, recreation and sport occupations (Figure 20). The three occupations with the largest difference between the provincial average and the average for Alberta immigrants were: Occupations unique to primary industry, at $5.15; Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing, and utilities, at $5.14; and Occupations in social Science, education, government service and religion, at $4.95.

Figure 20

Average Hourly Wages for Albertans by Occupation, 2015

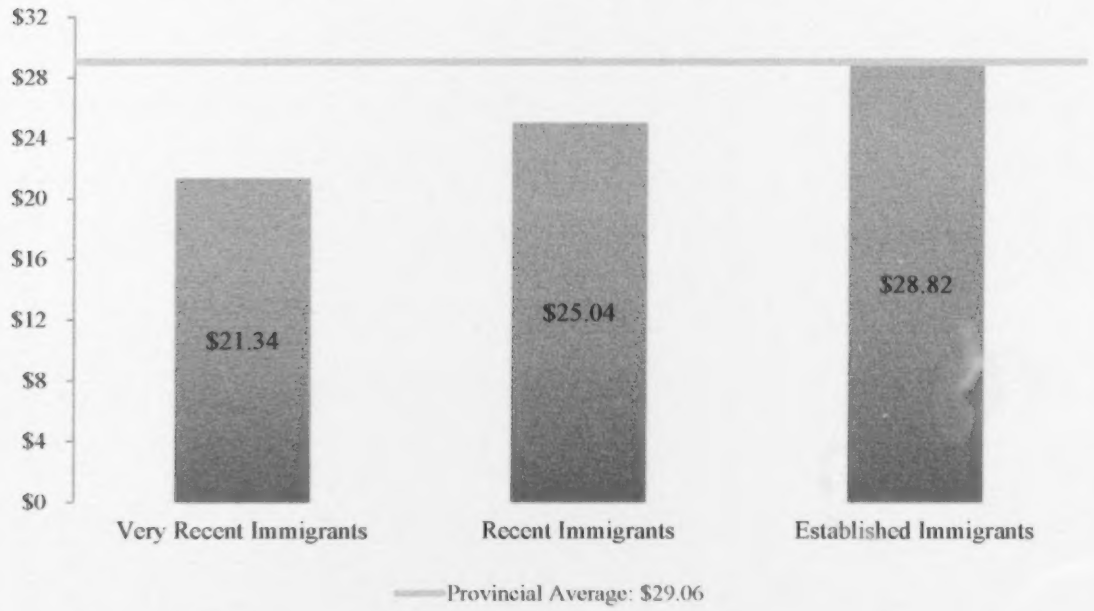


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The average hourly wages immigrants received were higher as they became more established in Alberta (Figure 21). Established immigrants received the highest average hourly wage, which were $3.78 more than very recent immigrants and $7.48 more than recent immigrants in 2015.

Figure 21

Average Hourly Wages for Alberta Immigrants



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Immigrant: Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Canadian citizens by birth and non-permanent residents (persons from another country who live in Canada and have a work or study permit, or are claiming refugee status, as well as family members living here with them) are not landed immigrants. **Very recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for 5 years or less prior to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). **Recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 5 years but no more than 10 years prior to the LFS. **Established immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 10 years prior to the LFS.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces'

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